

POINT OF VIEW

If you are writing a personal narrative, you can only write it in **first person**, where the narrator uses the “I” voice and tells his or her own story. But if you are writing a short story, you have the option of writing it in **third person**, where the narrator is referring to the characters as he, she, they, etc., and the narrator is not part of the story.

Third person point of view has different versions, depending on whether or not the narrator can “see” inside one or more of the characters’ heads. The chart below shows how each one works. Whichever one you choose, just be sure to keep it consistent throughout your story.

By the way, short stories can also be written in first person. That doesn’t mean it’s a true story; it just means the author wanted readers to hear the story in the voice of one of the characters.

Name	Definition	Example
1 st person	Uses “I” voice, sees story through one character’s eyes.	I like going to the park.
3 rd person omniscient	Uses “he/she/they” voice, sees story through many characters’ eyes.	She liked going to the park, but he didn’t.
3 rd person limited	Uses “he/she/they” voice, sees story through ONE characters’ eyes.	She liked going to the park, but she didn’t think he liked it.
3 rd person objective	Uses “he/she/they” voice, sees story through no characters’ eyes.	They went to the park.